

The City of Falls Church

Solid Waste Management Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) requires that all jurisdictions, including the City of Falls Church, prepare a 20-year integrated solid waste management plan (SWMP) and submit it by July 1, 2004. The City has designed its future solid waste management (SWM) system around the following strategic goals:

- Become a community of citizens whose actions reflect an ethic of resource conservation and waste minimization.
- Develop and maintain a secure, cost-effective, environmentally sound and resource-efficient SWM program.

The City staff, working with the City's Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee (SWMPAC) and stakeholders throughout the SWM system, reviewed current waste activities and programs. After projecting the potential waste generation for the next 20 years, the City analyzed the current system and future needs to discover gaps in waste management.

The City identified the following significant gaps:

- Need for increased source reduction and reuse to reduce the increasing amount of waste generated in the City
- Need for increased recycling to reduce the burden on waste disposal
- Municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal must be provided; the contract for the primary disposal facility, Fairfax County's waste-to-energy facility (the I-95 Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (E/RRF)) will expire after 2011
- Construction/demolition/debris (CDD) disposal capacity may be exhausted within seven years
- Regional increases in yard waste quantities may impact the availability of composting facilities for City-generated yard waste.

- The City Transfer Yard may not be available for leaf storage and processing.

The City of Falls Church selected SWMP actions that will close the gaps between its current SWM system and that required in the future. These actions include the following:

- *Increase public outreach and education.* The City will unify its SWM program through a strong communications program. Public outreach and education efforts will be aimed at increasing participation in source reduction, reuse, and recycling activities.
- *Increase business recycling by reducing commercial recycling thresholds.* By reducing the recycling threshold for businesses, the City of Falls Church can dramatically increase the business recycling rate and overall City recycling rate.
- *Implement a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) system.* Under a PAYT system, City residents will be charged for MSW services on the basis of the amount of trash they discard, creating an incentive to generate less trash. PAYT programs encourage residents to produce less waste by practicing source reduction, as well as reuse and recycling.
- *Expand recyclables collected at multifamily residences.* By requiring managers of multi-tenant residences to offer collection of the same range of recyclable materials provided to residents who receive City collection services, the City will increase the residential recycling rate and simplify and standardize its citywide recycling message.
- *Continue using the current disposal system.* The City prefers to continue the use of Fairfax County's disposal system for the disposal of City-generated MSW. The City can help guarantee MSW and CDD disposal capacity over the SWMP planning period by contracting for capacity at disposal facilities outside the City.
- *Establish a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program in the City.* The City will establish a HHW collection program in the City to more effectively divert hazardous waste from entering the normal waste stream.

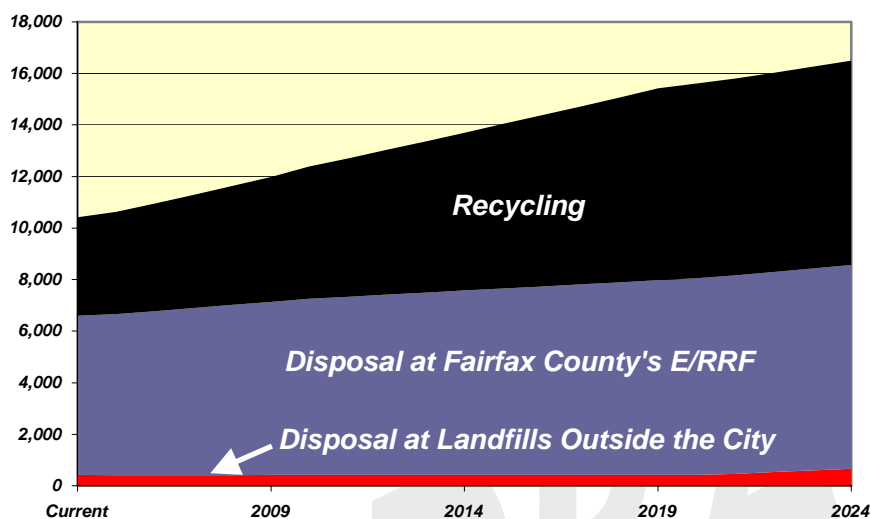
Table ES-1 outlines the City's objectives and strategic vision for its integrated SWM system over the next 20 years. These strategies address the gaps identified in the system. All SWM facilities constructed or operated in the City must be in accordance with the contents of this SWMP.

Table ES-1. City of Falls Church SWM Objectives and Future System

	Objectives	Future System
Source Reduction and Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand source reduction and reuse programs in the City to minimize waste generation. – Increase public awareness to increase participation in source reduction and reuse initiatives – Promote public-private partnerships to increase program efficiency and minimize City costs – Create a model of resource efficiency, providing leadership by example 	<p>Improve public outreach and education to promote source reduction and reuse</p> <p>Implement a Pay-As-You-Throw collection system</p> <p>Establish a materials exchange</p> <p>Participate in establishment of regional resource exchange programs</p> <p>Monitor and publicize waste generation</p> <p>Implement source reduction and reuse programs at City government facilities and schools</p> <p>Provide tools to promote increased source reduction and reuse</p> <p>Promote surplus food distribution programs</p>
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increase overall recycling quantities in the City to minimize waste disposal – Expand types of materials collected and recycled to increase recycling quantities and support the promotion of unified recycling messages – Revise City ordinances to support increased recycling – Increase recycling at City of Falls Church businesses and institutions – Increase public awareness to increase participation in recycling initiatives – Promote public-private partnerships to increase program efficiency and minimize City costs – Create a model of resource efficiency, providing leadership by example 	<p>Promote public-private recycling programs</p> <p>Improve public outreach and education to promote recycling</p> <p>Increase business recycling by reducing recycling thresholds</p> <p>Implement a Pay-As-You-Throw collection system</p> <p>Encourage increased CDD recycling</p> <p>Continue current yard waste recycling system; contract with composting facilities for dedicated capacity</p> <p>Encourage increased MSW recycling at City government facilities and schools</p> <p>Revise regulations to enhance recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand recyclables collected at multifamily residences – Expand recycling requirements for electronic wastes <p>Consider implementation of single-stream curbside collection system for recyclables</p> <p>Participate in regional promotion of CDD recycling</p> <p>Provide tools to promote increased recycling</p> <p>Establish a recycling rate goal</p> <p>Promote establishment of a regional food waste composting facility</p>
Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide collection services that support a secure, cost-effective, environmentally sound and resource-efficient SWM system – Increase collection efficiency – Reduce collection truck impacts on City air quality – Eliminate litter and illegal dumping in the City of Falls Church 	<p>Maintain City refuse collection</p> <p>Continue current yard waste collection system, including vacuumed leaf collection</p> <p>Implement a Pay-As-You-Throw collection system</p> <p>Expand collection of electronic wastes</p> <p>Continue using the current special wastes management system</p> <p>Establish a HHW collection program in the City of Falls Church</p> <p>Maintain the current litter control program</p> <p>Increase effectiveness of street sweeping</p> <p>Increase efforts to prevent illegal dumping</p> <p>Promote use of special fuels, filters, and special vehicles for collection</p> <p>Implement a collection and disposal strategy for emergencies</p>
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to use Fairfax County's I-66 Transfer Station for MSW, brush, and bagged yard waste – Provide temporary leaf storage and processing in the City for vacuumed leaves 	<p>Continue using the current transfer system</p> <p>Maintain leaf mulch program at the City Transfer Yard or alternative location</p>
Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure the safe and efficient disposal of discarded materials that cannot be reused, repaired or recycled 	<p>Continue using the current disposal system as the preferred alternative</p> <p>Establish agreements with other jurisdictions for alternative disposal</p>

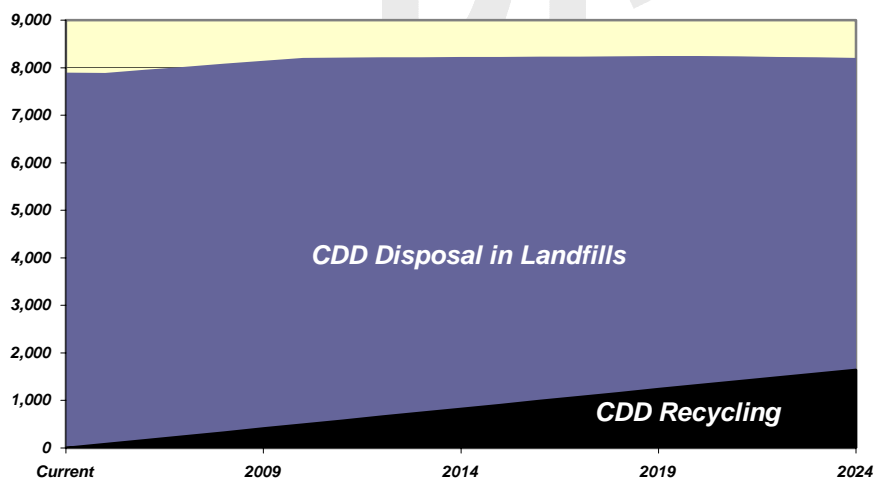
Figures ES-1, ES-2, and ES-3 illustrate the projected range of MSW (not including yard waste), CDD, and yard waste, respectively, in the City's SWM system over the next 20 years and the projected ranges of waste generation, recycling, and disposal needed after implementing the City's future SWM system.

Figure ES-1. Projected Quantities of MSW (Excluding Yard Waste) for the City's SWM System (Tons)



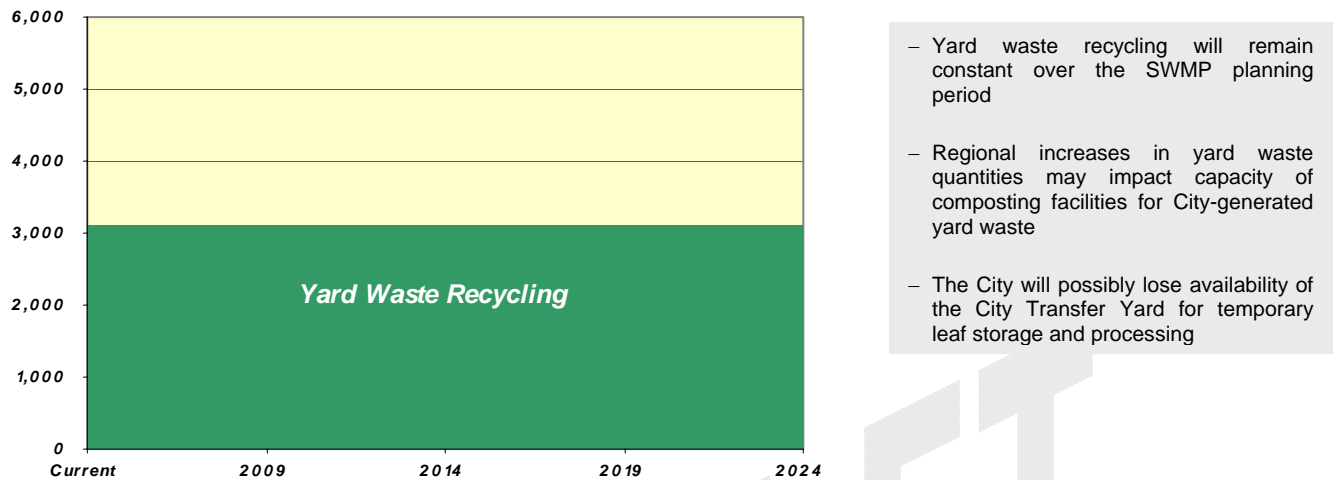
- The overall City recycling rate is projected to increase to 65 percent over the next 15 years from implementation of SWMP actions.
- The MSW collection system (excluding yard waste and special wastes) must handle an additional 1,760 to 5,680 tons per year by 2025.
- Fairfax County's I-66 Transfer Station must handle up to an additional 850 to 2,700 tons per year of City-generated MSW; existing capacity is sufficient.
- Fairfax County expects the E/RRF will have sufficient capacity to handle the projected quantities of City-generated MSW requiring disposal over the SWMP planning period.

Figure ES-2. Projected Quantities of CDD for the City's SWM System (Tons)



- The CDD collection system must handle up to an additional 1,200 tons per year by 2025.
- Regional CDD disposal capacity is projected to be exhausted in 6 to 10 years.
- Disposal capacity concerns may trigger increased CDD recycling in the City.

Figure ES-3. Projected Quantities of Yard Waste for the City's SWM System (Tons)



Changes to this SWMP will occur through the process VDEQ outlined in the Solid Waste Management Planning Regulations, Amendment 1 (9VAC20-130-175). Major amendments include any addition, deletion, or cessation of operation of any solid waste facility; any increase in landfill capacity; any change that moves toward implementation of a waste management strategy that is lower in the waste management hierarchy; and any change to membership in the approved area. Minor amendments include any change that moves toward implementation of a waste management strategy that is higher in the waste management hierarchy and any nonsubstantive administrative change such as a change in name. All amendments will be submitted directly to the VDEQ for approval; major amendments require public participation, including a public hearing.